



Chief Executive Officer
Cynthia H. de Lorenzi

President
Bruce T. Long

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

Petition of Qwest Corporation for
Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 160(c)
Pertaining to Qwest's xDSL Services
WC Docket No. 04-416

COMMENTS OF
CYNTHIA H. de LORENZI
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF PATRIOTNET

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was the opening salvo to an unprecedented advancement of technology and science never before witnessed in the history of planet earth. It has been the free, open and easy access to information that advanced world knowledge and propelled our nation as a global technology leader. With an unencumbered communications system the Internet flourished and technological and scientific innovation prevailed.

In less than a decade the Bells, born out of the 1996 Telecommunications Act have convinced the FCC that it serves our nations interest to spurn this great achievement and return to what must be deemed as a monopolistic regime. It is difficult to even imagine that such a decision serves any interests, except those of the corporate giants whose actions appear predicated by greed and determined to remove even the smallest of competitors.

Unlike the Bells, who have been subsidized in large part by the government, small independent ISPs innovated and built Internet communication platforms that the Bells denied to even be viable. In the 1990's, consumer demand was growing and the independents delivered, using their own capital, an Internet communications platform to meet those needs. Delivering, not only access, these small firms offered support and service, from education, PC repair, Web development and hosting.

To reverse that 1996 Telecommunications Act now is not only unfair, it calls into question the competence those failing to research and validate the actual cost to small business, innovation and those who actually paved the way for access to the Internet. To establish a platform that gifts the business and clients that the independents developed and grew to those wielding power and money denies the very foundation of competition on which our nation was founded.

Qwest's Petition will ultimately harm the ability of independent ISP's to compete and provides further deterioration of the very platform on which the public has come to rely. Qwest is clearly in the kitchen with BellSouth and Verizon in concocting a recipe that may look nice but will be bitter to the taste and hard to swallow.

The FCC must embrace telecom competition and reflect their support by protecting the first tier of our nations Internet infrastructure. Failing to do so is a threat to our nation's defenses, spurns innovation, derails our economic recovery, destroys small business, increases unemployment and threatens our ranking as a global technology leader.

Respectfully submitted,

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